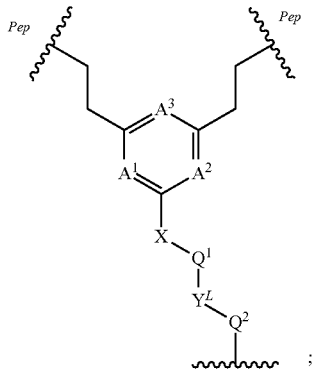
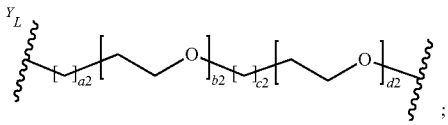
18. The conjugate according to claim **1**, wherein the linker comprises the moiety of formula (IIIb):

(IIIb)

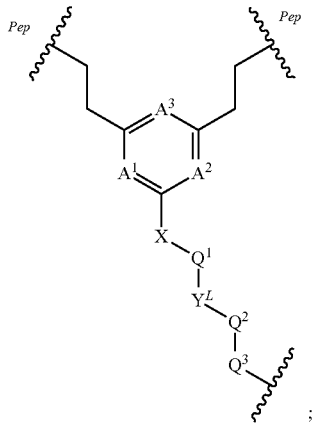


where Q^2 is:

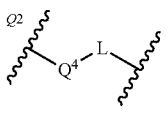


where a2=0 to 5, b2=0 to 16, c2=0 to 5, d2 is 0 to 16, and b2+d2=0 to 16.

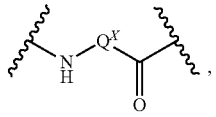
19. The conjugate according to claim **1**, wherein the linker comprises the moiety of formula (Mc):



where Q^3 is:



wherein Q^4 is a single bond, or



where Q^X is such that Q^4 is an amino-acid residue, a dipeptide residue or a tripeptide residue, and L is a group for attachment to the active agent.

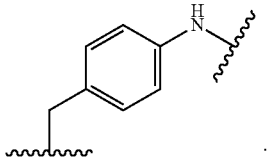
20. The conjugate according to claim **19**, wherein L is selected from:

(a) a single bond;

(b) —C(═O)—;

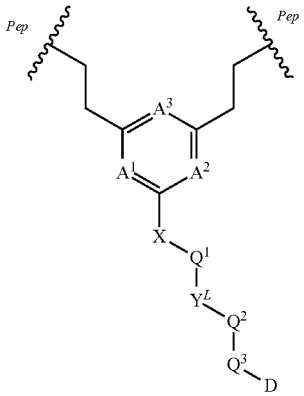
(c) —NH—; and

(d)



21. The conjugate according to claim **1**, wherein the agent-linker is of formula (IIId):

(IIId)



where D is the active agent.

22. The conjugate according to claim **1**, wherein X is N and there are two active agents, each attached to X via a linker.

23-28. (canceled)

29. An agent-linker compound comprising a linker and an active agent, wherein the linker comprises the moiety of formula (II):